

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5166

LIMDIS

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJ: INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS

REF: LISBON 5152 DTG 041247Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: LISBON PRESS REPORTS INCREASING ACTIVITY BY INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENTS IN AZORES AND MADEIRA AND APPEARANCE OF INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT IN ALGARVE. KEY FLA LEADER HAS ABANDONED
HIS LISBON RESIDENCE AND IS NOW IN AZORES. LISBON REACTION TO
THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAS BEEN RESTRAINED AND USG INVOLVEMENT IN
SEPARATIST'S ACTIVITIES HAS NOT BECOME AN ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

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1. AZORES: ACCORDING TO LISBON PRESS, AZOREAN SEPARATISTS ARE

INCREASINGLY ACTIVE. RECENT REPORTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

--RECENT MEETING OF FLA LEADERS FROM U.S., LISBON, AND AZORES IN CANARIES. MEETING REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN DECISION TO PURSUE "MODERATE" PATH TO INDEPENDENCE AND TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL.

--CREATION OF ARMY OF AZOREAN LIBERATION (EXERCITO DA LIBERTACAO DOS ACORES--ELA) IN ISLANDS UNDER AUSPICES OF FLA. ARMY IS REPORTEDLY COMPOSED OF CIVILIAN MILITA BUT INCLUDES TROOPS AND OFFICERS FROM GOP MILITARY AND MILITARIZED UNITS STATIONED IN AZORES. IT IS READY FOR ACTION AT MOMENTS NOTICE AND IS PREPARED TO INITIATE "URBAN GUERRILA" WARFARE IN NEAR FUTURE.

--CONTINUED OPERATION OF CLANDESTINE FLA RADIO TRANSMITTER ON TERCEIRA. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, STATION TRANSMITS REGULARLY, BEGINNING AND ENDING EACH BROADCAST WITH "NATIONAL ANTHEM OF AZOREAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" (RDA). RECENT BROADCASTS HAVE THREATENED RESORT TO "ARMED INTERVENTION IF THINGS DON'T CHANGE IN LISBON."

--EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT KEY FLA LEADER AND PPD DELEGATE TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY PERMANENTLY MOVED OUT OF HIS LISBON RESIDENCE AND DEPARTED FOR THE AZORES AUG 30 REFTEL.

2. MADEIRA: REPORTS ON MADEIRA SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES APPEAR DAILY IN LISBON PRESS. RECENT COVERAGE HAS CENTERED ON:

--CIRCULATION IN FUNCHAL OF 13 POINT FLAMA "PROVISIONAL PROGRAM" CALLING FOR, "INTER ALIA," RECOGNITION OF FLAMA AS SOLE AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF MADEIRAN PEOPLE, IMMEDIATE PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF DE JURE MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE, IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP TO DEFINE TERMS OF INDEPENDENCE.

--REPORTED CREATION OF CLANDESTINE "GOVERNMENT OF TRANSITION" ON MADEIRA BY "ALL MOVEMENTS FIGHTIN FOR INDEPENDENCE." GOVERNMENT'S "PROGRAM," CALLING FOR ELECTION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, HAS BEEN RELEASED.

--BOMBING CAMPAIGN AGAINST RESIDENCES AND PROPERTY OF MADEIRAN "PROGRESSIVES" AND AGAINST GOVERNMENT FACILITIES CULMINATING IN SEPTEMBER 3 BOMBING OF CIVIL GOVERNOR'S PALACE IN FUNCHAL.

3. ALGARVE: ONLY ONE REPORT HAS APPEARED REGARDING ALGARVE
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INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (MOVIMENTO PELA INDEPENDENCIA DO ALGARVE-AIM). REPORT INDICATES THAT MOVEMENT AROSE DUE TO DEPRESSED ECONOMIC CONDITION OF REGION CAUSED BY COLLAPSE OF TOURIST INDUSTRY. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ITS LEADERSHIP, NUMBERS, OR PLANS. ITS ACTIVITIES TO DATE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO WALL PAINTING.

4. REACTION HERE TO INCREASED SEPARATIST ACTIVITY HAS BEEN

SURPRISINGLY MUTED. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, GENERALLY ATTRIBUTING RISE OF INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CAUSES AND RECOGNIZING THAT ONLY PROMPT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO ISLANDS' PROBLEMS CAN SAVE SITUATION THERE. TENDENCY TO BLAME SEPARATISM ON FASCIST OR REACTIONARY MANEUVERS HAS BEEN HARSHLY CRITICIZED BY SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS AS BEING SIMPLISTIC AND INACCURATE. FEWER ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO LINK USG WITH SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES. EVEN PCP, IN RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE ON SITUATION IN ADJACENT ISLANDS, MADE NO REFERENCE TO U.S.

5. COMMENT: LOW-KEY REACTION TO INCREASED SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES MAY REFLECT DAWNING OF AWARENESS HERE THAT INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS HAVE ROOTS IN VERY REAL, CONCRETE PROBLEMS AND ARE NOT ENTIRELY WORK OF REACTIONARIES OR IMPERIALISTS. FAILURE OF COMMUNIST PRESS TO USE SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES FOR ANTI-U.S. PURPOSES, HOWEVER, STEMS MORE FROM NEGLECT AND BASIC PREOCCUPATION WITH PRESERVING COMMUNIST POSITION IN METROPOLE THAN FROM ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDE. UDI BY AZORES WOULD STILL BE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO U.S. INTERESTS HERE, AND TO EFFORTS OF "NINE" AS WELL.

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